

Please amend claim 16 by replacing the entire claim with the amended claim as follows:

--16. (Amended) An organic humus material comprising a substantially odorless material created by harvesting solids from the aqueous environment of a substantially odorless, biological treatment process performing simultaneous nitrification and denitrification on organic waste in said aqueous environment, wherein oxygen is added to maintain less than about 2.0 mg/l of dissolved oxygen.--.

Please add new claims 18 to 23 as follows:

--18. (New) The humus material of Claim 16, wherein said aqueous environment further comprises about  $10^{15}$  or more biological microorganisms with an average doubling time of less than about 30 days.

19. (New) The humus material of Claim 16, wherein said aqueous environment further comprises biological microorganisms regenerating at a rate of more than about  $10^{15}$  base pair replications per second.

20. (New) The humus material of Claim 16, mixed with at least one of clay, sand, silt, mud, soil, gravel, dust, mine tailings and dredgings, polymers, plastics or other inert or inorganic materials.

21. (New) The humus material of Claim 16, further comprising, on a dry weight basis, about 0.2 to 10.0 % nitrogen, about 0.1 to 10.0 % phosphorous and about 0.1 to 10.0 % potassium.

22. (New) The humus material of Claim 21, wherein the nitrogen and phosphorous are in a stabilized form resistant to migration.

23. (New) The humus material of Claim 21, comprising, on a dry weight basis, less than about 6 % nitrogen, less than about 2 % phosphorous and less than about 2 % potassium.--.

#### **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1 to 15, amends claim 16, and adds new claims 18 and 23. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the